Department of Finance

News Release

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Government of Canada Confirms Increased Support for Canada's Health System

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, today confirmed that the Government of Canada will provide over $22.6 billion in stable and growing cash support for Canada's health system through the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) in 2008–09.

This represents a 6-per-cent increase over the previous year's transfer—and it is set to grow at this rate to reach over $30 billion nationally by 2013–14.

"Canadians want a health system that is there for them when and where they need it," said Minister Flaherty. "Our universal health care system is one of the cornerstones of this great country, and our government believes this increase in funding will allow for enhanced service and a better quality of life."

"The CHT supports our government's commitment to maintain the national criteria and conditions of the Canada Health Act—comprehensiveness, universality, portability, accessibility and public administration—which is why our government supports a growing CHT," added the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health.

In addition to the CHT, Budget 2007 invested:

- an additional $400 million for the Canada Health Infoway to support provincial and territorial development of electronic health records that will reduce wait times and the risk of medical errors and lead to better outcomes;
- $612 million to support provinces and territories in meeting their commitments to implement patient wait times guarantees;
- $30 million over three years for patient wait times guarantee pilot projects to assist provinces and territories in implementing their patient wait times guarantees;
- $300 million in per capita funding for provinces and territories to support the launch of a national human papillomavirus vaccine program to protect women against cancer of the cervix;
- $55 million over five years for the establishment of the Mental Health Commission of Canada;

- $2 million in one-time funding to support the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's goal of implementing its No Child Without program in all elementary schools in Canada; and
- a $22-million-per-year increase to help the Canadian Institute for Health Information build on its reputation as a world leader in providing timely, accurate and comparable health information that supports improved health delivery outcomes.

The increased CHT for 2008–09 will begin to flow to the provinces and territories on April 1, 2008.

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CANADA HEALTH TRANSFER (CHT)

Province/Territory	2008-09
($ millions)	
Newfoundland and Labrador	359
Prince Edward Island	99
Nova Scotia	664
New Brunswick	533
Quebec	5,491
Ontario	8,576
Manitoba	846
Saskatchewan	804
Alberta	1,921
British Columbia	3,269
Nunavut	26
Northwest Territories	20
Yukon	23
Canada	**22,629**

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding. Population estimated by Finance Canada based on Statistics Canada data release of September 27, 2007.